



Public Sector

S A F E T Y R E P O R T

Public Sector enforcement activity January through March 2002

- During this period, Public Sector Enforcement assessed \$42,070 in penalties.
- Most frequent violations:
 - Electrical equipment was not free from recognized hazards that are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees. 29CFR1910.303(b)(1).
 - Employers did not have complete hazard communication program. 29CFR1910.1200(e)(1)
 - Fire departments did not maintain complete records of individual training for firefighters. Title 26 MRSA Ch 28 section 2102 2 (Maine law)
 - Employers did not have a lockout/tagout program. 29CFR1910.147(c)(1)
 - Portable fire extinguishers did not receive annual maintenance check. 29CFR1910.157(e)(3)

Public Sector Enforcement Activities for 2001

- Public Sector Enforcement assessed \$278,080 in penalties in 2001.
- Primary enforcement activity in 2001 centered on fire departments, followed by water/sanitary/sewer districts, then state parks, ending with municipalities. Due to the enforcement emphasis on fire departments, the respiratory protection standard was the most cited violation.
- Most frequent violations:
 - Employees did not receive medical evaluations before being fit-tested or using a respirator. 29CFR1910.134(e)(1)
 - Employees were not fit-tested prior to initial use of a respirator, when they use a different respirator, and at least annually thereafter. 29CFR1910.134(f)(2)
 - Employers did not implement and maintain the required respiratory protection program. 29CFR1910.134(c)
 - Employers did not have a lockout/tagout program. 29CFR1910.147(c)(1)
 - Portable fire extinguishers did not receive annual maintenance check. 29CFR1910.157(e)(3)

Free Classes for the Public Sector

- **Municipal, County, State Safety Awareness Program** is an overview of public sector responsibilities, enforcement procedures and what to do when visited by a Public Sector Enforcement Officer. May 8, 8:00-12:00 in Augusta, Dexter and Searsport.
- **OSHA Recordkeeping** covers the new recordkeeping rules. Learn how to properly prepare and maintain required injury and illness records using the new forms. May 15, 8:00 to 12:00 in Augusta, Bethel and Oxford Hills.
- **To register** call 624-6400 (TTY: 1800-794-1110)

Clarification Issued on Junior Firefighters

The Maine Department of Labor has issued a clarification on the hazardous occupation rules for junior firefighters. For a copy call 624-6400 (TTY: 1800-794-1110) or go to www.state.me.us/labor/bls/newpsw.htm

Regulations and compliance assistance for Maine public sector workplaces can be found on the internet at <http://www.state.me.us/labor/bls/newpsw.htm>

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services provided upon request.

Return Service Requested

MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
Public Sector Enforcement

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Spring 2002

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The Public Sector Safety Report is issued quarterly to inform public sector employers and employees of safety and health enforcement issues. Published by the Maine Department of Labor, the compliance and enforcement agency for occupational safety and health regulations for public sector workplaces in Maine.

Please post this Report to share the information with employees.

To be added to the mailing list, or to make address corrections, send information to *Public Sector Safety Report*, MDOL, 45 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0045, fax to (207) 624-6449 or e-mail at webmaster.bls@state.me.us TTY 1-800-794-1110.